luty. Auxiliary duty at the rate of 40 per ent *advalorem* is, however, leviable on uch horses. Additional duty of customs s not leviable, as there is no excise duty on horses and mares.

Auxiliary duty of 40 per cent *advalorem* leviable on such horses is the highest of the slab-rates of auxiliary duty on imported goods. The basic customs duty on such horses has been exempted to improve the quality of Indian thoroughbreds.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration for banning the import of horses for breeding purposes.

1134. [*Transferred to the 5th May, 1986*].

Economic growth rate

1135. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of 5 per cent in the national economy as reported in the 'Economic Survey' for 1985-86, the first year of the Seventh Plan, is being realized;

(b) if not, whether the reasons for the same have been ascertained; and

(c) what measures are being taken to sustain the tempo of economic growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Based on information available, Economic Survey had indicated that growth rate in 1985-86 was likely to be about 4.5 to 5 per cent The CSO, which compiles national income statistics, has not yet made estimates for 1985-86.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Voluntary retirement schemes for bank employees

1136. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme for bank employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the scheme, Government propose to give a lumpsum amount of Rs. 50,000 to those who opt for retirement after certain number of years over and above the provident fund, gratuity and other retirement benefits; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Proposals' received in this regard are being processed. No view has been taken so far in the matter.

Processing of loan applications by the State Bank of India officials in West Bengal

1137. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the State Bank of India in West Bengal were given only four days to process 38,000 loan applications in Jadavpur and another 40,000 applications in Mathurapur area;

(b) whether the date set for the distribution of loan forms was fixed as April 10, 1986 and the loans were required to be distributed by the 16th of April, 1986;

(c) whether it is a fact that the officers of the State Bank of India have protested against such hasty procedure and irresponsible action in disbursing loans to 78,000 beneficiaries without ensuring that the loans will be recovered; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) United Bank of India, the convenor bank of West Bengal has reported that neither State Bank of India was asked to process 38,000 loan applications in Jadavpur and 40,000 loan applications in Mathurapur nor they were given 4 days time to process applications.